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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE **PCT NATIONAL PHASE PATENT APPLICATION**

OF: Wilhelm CLAESSEN et al.

USSN: TO BE ASSIGNED - NEW

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

BOX PCT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

March 18, 2002

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO MINIMIZE THE FILING FEE

Dear Sir:

In order to minimize the filing fee, please amend the above identified patent application as follows before calculating the filing fee.

Referring to the Literal Translation of International Application
PCT/DE00/02828

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3 to 14.

Claims 1 and 2 are maintained for calculating the filing fee.

REMARKS:

After calculating the filing fee, please further enter the accompanying Second Preliminary Amendment which adds new claims 15 to 26 for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilhelm CLAESSEN et al.

Applicant

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